



LORD NAPIER,

AND

CHARLES HOPE-WEIR of CRAIGIE-HALL, Efq;

Honoured Friends,

Benevolence is an inherent Quality in great and good Minds; and those Breasts that open freely to the Reception of a Stranger, and can welcome him to a generous Protection, are possessed with a Benevolence of a most refined Nature: No Language, no Encomiums, can enough describe it: Nor is there any Return so suitable to it as Gratitude.

YOU then, my much effeemed Friends, will not be furprifed, that, whenever I should have an Opportunity to appear publickly in the World, Gratitude should point out that, as a fit Time for me, to acknowledge to whose Goodness I owe, not only many particular

DEDICATION.

cular Obligations, but even to the Influence of whose Countenance is owing most of the Encouragement I have met with in this Country.

WHAT a Hardship is it, that Persons of my Sphere can feldom or never have an Opportunity of confessing their Gratitude, but they must, at the same Time, add to their Debts; fince, by Your Acceptance of these most grateful Acknowledgments. You have the Trouble too, to receive the following ESSAY into Your Patronage, calculated to illustrate that Art which I profess, and which You have judged worthy of Your Study and Approbation: A new Favour, for which all the Expressions of my Duty and Respect are but a poor Return; and especially as I have nothing elfe to recommend them, but the Sincerity with which they are offered, and with which I am,

Your much Obliged and Respectful Friend,

THOMAS CUMMING.

PREFACE.

A T the Importunity, and by the Encousing ragement of my Scholars, I have engraved this small Volume, for their Improvement in STENOGRAPHY.

SOME Book in Sacred Writ was judged most expedient for this Purpose; no other being of so universal Use and Esteem; and the rather, that if ever I should meet with Encouragement to engrave the whole Bible, the having so much of it done now, would so far facilitate the Trouble, and lessen the Expence.

BUT I must acknowledge, I too inconfiderately made Choice of the Proverbs; no other Book in the Bible being so difficult to read in this Way; seldom one Sentence depending upon, or standing in Connection with another. Considering then, that so material an Inconveniency attends this Choice, no Wonder if the Learner be frequently puzled in reading: But seeing I have apprised him of the Difficulty, he ought to be the less discouraged. If one attain to such a Proficiency as to read and write this Essay with tolerable Facility, then, any other Book,

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PREFACE.

Book, Sermon, Lecture, or Trial, may be read, and wrote with Pleasure.

AS I use not arbitrary Characters, or Marks for Words (which abound in former Authors of this Kind, to the Consumption of much Time, and an intolerable Burden to the Memory of the Learners) have therefore, sometimes wrote one and the same Word vavariously, to show the Learner the Copiousness of my Method: And that such Words as are not analogous to the principal Lessons and Rules of Contraction, may be differently wrote without the least Ambiguity.

FOR the most Part, I have followed the Practice of the best Authors, in omitting the Particles a, an, of, of a, of the, to, to a, to the, the, and into, unto; however, to satisfy the Curiosity of some, the 17th Chap. has all of them. The Omission of these Particles helps very much to write expeditiously: And tho', at first, they may not occur readily in the Reader's Mind; yet, by a little Practice, he will find them become as natural as other Contractions, which his common Sense must unavoidably discover.

A

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